

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02271 052154Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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SSO-00 /110 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1778
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02271

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BRITISH REPORT ON CONVERSATION WITH
SHIPANGA

BRITISH MISSION HAS PROVIDED US WITH TEXT OF REPORTING
CABLE ON JUNE 1 MEETING IN LONDON BETWEEN UK ASSISTANT
UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANSFIELD AND
ANDREAS SHIPANGA. TEXT OF REPORT FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT.

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1. SHIPANGA (ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE) CALLED ON
MANSFIELD ON 1 JUNE, AT HIS OWN REQUEST. THE MAIN
PURPOSE OF HIS CALL WAS TO THANK THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT
FOR HELPING TO BRING ABOUT HIS RELEASE, AND FOR
ALLOWING HIM TO COME TO THE UK. ALTHOUGH BUOYANT AND
CHEERFUL, HE HAD CLEARLY HAD A DIFFICULT TIME WHILST IN
DETENTION, SUFFERING SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND BEING

MANACLED; HOWEVER HE HAD LATTERLY MANAGED TO ARRANGE ACCESS TO BETTER FOOD, WRITING MATERIALS AND RADIO AS WELL AS CONTACT WITH FELLOW DETAINEES. HE ATTRIBUTED THE RELEASE OF THE DETAINEES TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES ON PRESIDENT NYERERE, OF WHOM HE WAS VERY CRITICAL FOR THE NUMBERS AND TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN TANZANIA.

2. HE WAS FRANK ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE DETERMINED TO DO WHAT THEY COULD FOR NAMIBIA, AND WERE NOT PREPARED TO SEE THEIR COUNTRY HELD TO RANSOM BY A SMALL CLIQUE OF MEN WHO WERE NOT INTERESTED IN A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE WAS SHARPLY CRITICAL OF NUJOMA WHO HE SAID SHOULD NOT HAVE BROKEN OFF TALKS WITH THE FIVE BECAUSE OF CASSINGA (HE POINTED OUT THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE US WHILE HANOI WAS BEING BOMBED.) HE WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE FRONT LINE STATES, WHOM HE DID NOT BELIEVE WOULD BRING SWAPO AROUND TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL WHICH HE HAD NOT YET STUDIED CLOSELY, BUT WHICH HE BELIEVED OFFERED A SATISFACTORY COMPROMISE. HE WAS IN TOUCH WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED NAMIBIANS, INCLUDING HIS COLLEAGUES FROM THE ELEVEN DETAINEES, AND THEY INTENDED TO REGROUP AS QUOTE SWAPO DEMOCRATS UNQUOTE (A TERM SHIPANGA CLAIMED WAS ALREADY BEING USED). SHIPANGA SAID THERE WERE MANY SWAPO MEMBERS WHO SHARED HIS VIEWS. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SWAPO DEMOCRATS WERE READY TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER PARTIES IN NAMIBIA, AND IN PARTICULAR WITH THE NNF. HE SAID AN NNF DELEGATION WOULD BE COMING TO EUROPE NEXT WEEK AND HE WOULD BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH THEM.

3. IN DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF A POSSIBLE SWAPO REJECTION OF THE PROPOSAL, SHIPANGA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS THIS WOULD ENTAIL FOR THE FIVE, PARTICULARLY THE PROBABLE ATTITUDE OF THE NON-ALIGNED AND SOVIET-BLOC STATES AT THE UN. HE SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SWAPO AS NOW CONSTITUTED WERE DEFINITELY NOT THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. UNDERSTANDABLY HE WAS NOT READY AT THIS STAGE TO SUGGEST HOW THIS COULD BEST BE DONE, BUT HE EVIDENTLY HOPES THAT THE FIVE CAN BE PERSUADED TO PROVIDE OBSERVERS FOR ANY PROPERLY ARRANGED ELECTION HELD IN NAMIBIA.

4. SHIPANGA ASKED WHETHER NUJOMA HAD COMMENTED ON HIS RELEASE. MANSFIELD SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY COMMENT FROM SWAPO.

5. SHIPANGA IS NOW GOING WITH HIS WIFE TO SWITZERLAND
FOR A BRIEF REST. HE DID NOT SAY HOW LONG HE INTENDED
TO REMAIN RESIDENT IN THE UK OR WHETHER AND WHEN HE
WOULD RETURN TO NAMIBIA. BUT HIS REMARKS ABOUT
HIS POLITICAL INTENTIONS IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD WANT TO
GO BACK AT SOME STAGE. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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